

Harnesses, Lévy bridges and *Monsieur Jourdain*

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Abstract

Relations between harnesses ([Ham67], [Wil80]) and initial enlargements of the filtration of a Lévy process with its positions at fixed times are investigated.

Keywords : *Harnesses, Lévy processes, past-future martingales, enlargement of filtration*

AMS 2000 subject classification : *60G48, 60G51, 60G44, 60G10

Contents

1	Introduction	1
2	Relations between Lévy bridges and harnesses	3
3	A Girsanov proof of the decomposition formula	5
4	A wider class of processes: the past-future martingales	8

1 Introduction

In order to model long-range misorientation within crystalline structure of metals, Hamersley [Ham67] introduced various notions of processes which enjoy particular conditional expectation properties. Among these, harnesses will be of particular interest. Let us precise the definition :

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Definition 1 :

Let $(H_t; t \geq 0)$ be a measurable process such that for all t , $\mathbb{E}[|H_t|] < \infty$, and define for all $t < T$:

$$\mathcal{H}_{t,T} := \sigma \{H_s; s \leq t; H_u; u \geq T\}$$

H is said to be a harness if, for all $a < b < c < d$

$$\mathbb{E} \left[\frac{H_c - H_b}{c - b} | \mathcal{H}_{a,d} \right] = \frac{H_d - H_a}{d - a} \quad (1)$$

One might also define the notion of $(\mathcal{F}_{t,T})_{t < T}$ -harness as soon as $\mathcal{H}_{t,T} \subset \mathcal{F}_{t,T}$, with obvious hypothesis on a "past-future" filtration \mathcal{F} , which may be just as useful as the notion of Brownian motion with respect to a filtration. The equality may be reformulated as follows : H is a harness if and only if for all $s < t < u$

$$\mathbb{E}[H_t | \mathcal{H}_{s,u}] = \frac{t - s}{u - s} H_u + \frac{u - t}{u - s} H_s \quad (2)$$

Such a formulation justifies that Harnesses are sometimes called affine processes (See [CY03] chapter 6).

We note that Williams ([Wil73] and [Wil80]) proved the following striking result : the only squared integrable continuous harnesses are Brownian motions with drifts. This latter result shows how rigid the property of being a continuous harness is and may help understand why studies of harnesses with continuous time were so few during the past twenty years. On the other hand, some multi-parameter versions appeared, imitating Williams arguments (See [Doz81], [Zho92], [Zhu88] and [ZZ88]).

Glancing through the literature, it seems that no study of discontinuous harnesses has been performed. Our reference to Monsieur Jourdain (a character of Molière (1622-1673) [Poq70]) in the title alludes to this point; as Monsieur Jourdain discovers he was practising prose without being aware of it, the following theorem shows that a number of authors have been dealing with harnesses.

Theorem 2 :

- (i) (Jacod-Protter, [JP88]) Let $(\xi_t; t \geq 0)$ be an integrable Lévy process (that is: $\forall t, \mathbb{E}[|\xi_t|] < \infty$) and define

$$\mathcal{F}_{t,T} = \sigma \{\xi_s; s \leq t; \xi_u; u \geq T\}$$

Then for any given $T > 0$, there is the decomposition formula :

$$\xi_t = M_t^{(T)} + \int_0^t ds \frac{\xi_T - \xi_s}{T - s} \quad (3)$$

where $(M_t; t \leq T)$ is a $(\mathcal{F}_{t,T}; t \leq T)$ -martingale

(ii) In a general framework, an integrable process $(H_t; t \geq 0)$ is a $(\mathcal{F}_{t,T})$ -harness if and only if, for every $T > 0$, there exists $(M_t^{(T)})_{t < T}$ a $(\mathcal{F}_{t,T}; t < T)$ -martingale such that

$$\forall t < T, H_t = M_t^{(T)} + \int_0^t ds \frac{H_T - H_s}{T - s} \quad (4)$$

For further results along this line, see Exercise 6.19 in [CY03] which provides a few references about harnesses. In the particular case of a Brownian motion ξ , formula (3) may be attributed to Itô [Itô78] but was already sketched by Lévy [Lév44a] and [Lév44b]. See also Jeulin-Yor [JY79]. Our motivation for writing this note is that harnesses -through formula (3)- seem to become more topical; indeed some recent works ([DNMBOP04] and [KH04]) develop financial models of markets with well informed agents (also called insiders) where formula (4) plays a key-role. Some other papers ([FFNV] or [FN]) also deal with some notions of harness derived directly from the pioneering work of Hammersley, but are apparently far from the preceding discussion.

This note is organized as follows :

- First we prove part (ii) of the theorem.
- Section 3 is devoted to an alternative proof of the decomposition formula (3) of Jacod-Protter [JP88] thanks to the absolute continuity of the law of a Lévy process and its bridge.
- In Section 4, we develop the more general notion of past-future martingale and provide as many examples as possible.

2 Relations between Lévy bridges and harnesses

(2.1) Let $(B_t; t \geq 0)$ be a 1-dimensional Brownian motion; it is well known that a realization of the Brownian bridge over the time interval $[0, T]$, starting at x and ending at y , is:

$$\left\{ x + \left(B_t - \frac{t}{T} B_T \right) + \frac{t}{T} y; t \leq T \right\} \quad (5)$$

Moreover, the semimartingale decomposition of this bridge is also well-known; it is the solution of the SDE :

$$X_t = x + \beta_t + \int_0^t ds \frac{y - X_s}{T - s}; \quad t \leq T \quad (6)$$

where $(\beta_t; t \leq T)$ is a standard Brownian motion.

This decomposition formula (6) is, in fact, equivalent to the semimartingale decomposition of $(B_t; t \leq T)$ in the enlarged filtration $\mathcal{B}_t^{(T)} := \mathcal{B}_t \vee \sigma(B_T)$, where $\mathcal{B}_t = \sigma\{B_s; s \leq t\}$:

$$B_t = \gamma_t^{(T)} + \int_0^t ds \frac{B_T - B_s}{T - s} \quad (7)$$

where $(\gamma_t^{(T)}; t \leq T)$ is a $(\mathcal{B}_t^{(T)}; t \leq T)$ -Brownian motion; in particular, it is independent of B_T . See [Itô78] and [JY79] for a discussion of (6) and (7).

(2.2) It has been shown by Jacod-Protter [JP88] that formula (7) in fact extends to any integrable Lévy process $(\xi_t; t \geq 0)$ in the following way :

$$\xi_t = M_t^{(T)} + \int_0^t ds \frac{\xi_T - \xi_s}{T - s} \quad (8)$$

where $(M_t^{(T)}; t \leq T)$ is a martingale in the enlarged filtration $\mathcal{F}_t^{(T)} = \mathcal{F}_t \vee \sigma(\xi_T)$, where $\mathcal{F}_t = \sigma(\xi_s; s \leq t)$.

(2.3) Here is the proof of part (ii) of Theorem 2:

a. (\Rightarrow) Let H be a harness and $s < t < T$.

Define $M_t^{(T)} = H_t - \int_0^t \frac{H_T - H_u}{T - u} du$.

Then, the harness property implies

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E} [M_t^{(T)} | \mathcal{F}_{s,T}] &= \mathbb{E} [H_t | \mathcal{F}_{s,T}] - \int_0^s \frac{H_T - H_u}{T - u} du - \int_s^t \mathbb{E} \left[\frac{H_T - H_u}{T - u} | \mathcal{F}_{s,T} \right] du \\ &= \frac{T-t}{T-s} H_s + \frac{t-s}{T-s} H_T - \int_0^s \frac{H_T - H_u}{T - u} du - \int_s^t \frac{H_T - H_s}{T - s} du \\ &= M_s^{(T)} \end{aligned}$$

b. (\Leftarrow) First, remark it is enough to show that, for all $s < t < T$

$$\mathbb{E} \left[\frac{H_t - H_s}{t - s} | \mathcal{F}_{s,T} \right] = \frac{H_T - H_s}{T - s} \quad (9)$$

Indeed, if $r < s < t < T$, then

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E} \left[\frac{H_t - H_s}{t - s} | \mathcal{F}_{r,T} \right] &= \mathbb{E} \left[\mathbb{E} \left[\frac{H_t - H_s}{t - s} | \mathcal{F}_{s,T} \right] | \mathcal{F}_{r,T} \right] \\ &= \mathbb{E} \left[\frac{H_T - H_s}{T - s} | \mathcal{F}_{r,T} \right] \\ &= \frac{\mathbb{E} [H_r - H_s | \mathcal{F}_{r,T}]}{T - s} + \frac{H_T - H_r}{T - s} \\ &= \frac{r - s}{T - s} \frac{H_T - H_r}{T - r} + \frac{H_T - H_r}{T - s} \\ &= \frac{H_T - H_r}{T - r} \end{aligned}$$

It only remains to prove formula (9). The assumed decomposition formula (4) yields to

$$H_t - H_s = M_t^{(T)} - M_s^{(T)} + \int_s^t dv \frac{H_T - H_v}{T - v}$$

Therefore

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}[H_t - H_s | \mathcal{F}_{s,T}] &= \int_s^t dv \frac{\mathbb{E}[H_T - H_v | \mathcal{F}_{s,T}]}{T - v} \\ &= \int_s^t \frac{dv}{T - v} (H_T - H_s) - \int_s^t \frac{dv}{T - v} \mathbb{E}[H_v - H_s | \mathcal{F}_{s,T}] \end{aligned}$$

Hence, s and T being fixed, $\phi(t) := \mathbb{E}[H_t - H_s | \mathcal{H}_{s,T}]$ solves the following first order linear differential equation :

$$\phi(t) = \int_s^t \frac{dv}{T - v} (H_T - H_s) - \int_s^t \frac{dv}{T - v} \phi(v); \quad s \leq t \leq T$$

But this equation admits only one solution vanishing at s and a standard computation yields to $\phi(t) = \frac{H_T - H_s}{T - s}(t - s)$ which is formula (9).

Remark 3 :

Contrary to the very definition of harness, this proposition exhibits a privileged direction of time. So a similar representation property with the opposite time-direction can be derived. Namely, a measurable process H is a harness on $[0, T]$, if and only if, for all $T > \tau > 0$, there exists $(N_t^{(\tau)}; \tau < t \leq T)$ a $(\mathcal{F}_{\tau,t}; \tau < t \leq T)$ -reverse martingale such that

$$\forall \tau < t \leq T, \quad H_t = N_t^{(\tau)} - \int_t^T ds \frac{H_\tau - H_s}{\tau - s} \quad (10)$$

3 A Girsanov proof of the decomposition formula

(3.1) It is well known (see e.g. [FPY93]) that the law of the bridge of a Markov process is locally equivalent to the law of the "good" Markov process, more precisely, if X is a Markov process with $p_t(x, y)$ as its semigroup density from x to y , then the following absolute continuity relationship between $\mathbb{P}_{x \rightarrow y}^t$, the law of the bridge of length t from x to y and \mathbb{P}_x the law of X starting at x holds :

$$\mathbb{P}_{x \rightarrow y}^t = \frac{p_{t-s}(X_s, y)}{p_t(x, y)} \cdot \mathbb{P}_{x | \mathcal{F}_s} \quad (11)$$

If ξ is a Lévy process, $\phi_t(\cdot)$ will denote the density of the law of ξ_t , assuming it exists (see [Sat99] for conditions on a Lévy process to have such a density). The equality (11) then becomes :

$$\mathbb{P}_{x \rightarrow y | \mathcal{F}_s}^t = \frac{\phi_{t-s}(y - \xi_s)}{\phi_t(y - x)} \cdot \mathbb{P}_{x | \mathcal{F}_s} \quad (12)$$

We now stay in the context of a Lévy process.

Lemma 4 :

If $(M_t^y; t \leq T, y \in \mathbb{R})$ denote a family of variables such that

- *for any $y \in \mathbb{R}$, $(M_t^y; t \leq T)$ is a $P_{x \rightarrow y}^T$ -martingale.*
- *$(t, y) \mapsto M_t^y$ is measurable.*

Then $(M_t^{\xi_T}; t \leq T)$ remains a P_x -martingale with respect to the filtration initially enlarged with ξ_T .

Proof :

Let $(M_t^y; t \leq T, y \in \mathbb{R})$ be such a family of $P_{x \rightarrow y}^T$ -martingales; then, for all $s < t < T$ and $\Gamma_s \in \sigma(\xi_u; u \leq s)$,

$$\mathbb{E}_{x \rightarrow y}^T [1_{\Gamma_s} (M_t^y - M_s^y)] = 0$$

This implies, for any bounded Borel function f ,

$$\int \mathbb{P}_x(\xi_T \in dy) f(y) \mathbb{E}_{x \rightarrow y}^T [1_{\Gamma_s} (M_t^y - M_s^y)] = 0$$

Therefore

$$\mathbb{E}_x \left[f(\xi_T) 1_{\Gamma_s} (M_t^{\xi_T} - M_s^{\xi_T}) \right] = 0$$

So, $M_t^{\xi_T}$ a P_x -martingale with respect to the filtration enlarged with ξ_T .

■

(3.2) If we suppose, without any loss of generality, that $\mathbb{E}[\xi_1] = 0$, then ξ is a P_x -martingale (in any other case, we will study the Lévy process $\xi_t - \mathbf{d}t$ where \mathbf{d} is the drift term of ξ). We shall denote (σ^2, ν) its local characteristics (Brownian term and Lévy measure) and \mathcal{L} its infinitesimal generator. For the sake of simplicity, note that $\tilde{\mathcal{L}}$, the infinitesimal generator of the time-space process (t, ξ_t) satisfies

$$\tilde{\mathcal{L}} = \frac{\partial}{\partial t} + \mathcal{L}$$

Thanks to the Girsanov theorem and the absolute continuity relationship (12), the process

$$\xi_t - \int_0^t \frac{d\langle \xi, \phi_{T-}(\cdot - \xi) \rangle_s}{\phi_{T-s}(\cdot - \xi_s)}$$

defines a $P_{x \rightarrow y}^T$ -martingale and therefore

$$\xi_t - \int_0^t \frac{d\langle \xi, \phi_{T-}(\xi_T - \xi) \rangle_s}{\phi_{T-s}(\xi_T - \xi_s)}$$

is a P_x -martingale with respect to the filtration enlarged with ξ_T ; this process will now be compared with $(M_t^{(T)})_{t \leq T}$ in part (ii) of Theorem 2. Namely, we aim to prove that

$$\langle \xi, \phi_{T-}(\cdot - \xi) \rangle_t = \int_0^t \frac{y - \xi_s}{T - s} \phi_{T-s}(y - \xi_s) ds \quad (13)$$

that is, with our notation :

$$\tilde{\mathcal{L}}(x\phi_{T-s}(y-x))(s, x) = \frac{y-x}{T-s} \phi_{T-s}(y-x)$$

Now,

$$\tilde{\mathcal{L}}(x\phi_{T-s}(y-x))(s, x) = -\sigma^2 \phi'_{T-s}(y-x) + \int \nu(dz) z \phi_{T-s}(y-x-z)$$

[This computation is quite easy once we note that $(t, x) \mapsto \phi_{T-t}(y-x)$ is a space-time harmonic function.]

The following lemma concludes the proof :

Lemma 5 :

For any integrable Lévy process with local characteristics (σ^2, ν) and transition probability density ϕ ,

$$-\sigma^2 \phi'_u(x) + \int \nu(dz) z \phi_u(x-z) = \frac{x}{u} \phi_u(x) \quad (14)$$

Proof :

From the very definition of the Lévy exponent, we have :

$$\int e^{i\lambda x} \phi_u(x) dx = \mathbb{E} [e^{i\lambda \xi_u}] = e^{-u\Phi(\lambda)} \quad (15)$$

Differentiation in λ within this equality yields to

$$i \int x \phi_u(x) e^{i\lambda x} dx = -u\Phi'(\lambda) e^{-u\Phi(\lambda)}$$

with $\Phi'(\lambda) = \sigma^2\lambda - i \int \nu(dz)ze^{i\lambda z}$

Replacing $e^{-u\Phi(\lambda)}$ with the expression in (15) and noting that

$$\begin{aligned}\lambda \int \phi_u(x)e^{i\lambda x}dx &= i \int \phi'_u(x)e^{i\lambda x}dx \\ \int \nu(dz)ze^{i\lambda z} \int \phi_u(x)e^{i\lambda x}dx &= \int dx e^{i\lambda x} \int \nu(dz)z\phi_u(x-z)\end{aligned}$$

we obtain :

$$i \int x\phi_u(x)e^{i\lambda x}dx = -u \int dx \left(-\sigma^2\phi'_u(x) + \int \nu(dz)z\phi_u(x-z) \right) e^{i\lambda x}$$

■

Remark 6 :

The right-hand side of (14) can also be interpreted, for skip-free Lévy processes, as the density of the first hitting time thanks to Kendall's identity (See e.g. [BB01]).

4 A wider class of processes: the past-future martingales

(4.1) If \mathcal{F} denotes a past-future filtration, the following definition generalizes the notion of a \mathcal{F} -harness :

Definition 7 :

The two-parameters process $(M_{s,t})_{0 \leq s < t < \infty}$ is said to be a past-future martingale with respect to $(\mathcal{F}_{s,t})_{0 \leq s < t < \infty}$ if :

1. $\forall s < t, \mathbb{E}[|M_{s,t}|] < \infty$
2. $\forall s < t, M_{s,t}$ is $\mathcal{F}_{s,t}$ -measurable.
3. $\forall r < s < t < u, \mathbb{E}[M_{s,t}|\mathcal{F}_{r,u}] = M_{r,u}$

Remark 8 :

- As previously mentioned, a process H is a \mathcal{F} -harness if and only if $\left(\frac{H_t - H_s}{t-s}\right)_{0 \leq s < t < \infty}$ is a past-future martingale.
- Note that past-future martingales are reverse martingales indexed by the intervals of \mathbb{R}^+ .

(4.2) Here we are to detail some non trivial past-future martingales related to a standard Brownian motion $(B_t; t \geq 0)$.

1. Let f_+ and f_- be two both square-integrable and integrable functions on \mathbb{R}^+ and $C \in \mathbb{R}$. Then the process $(M_{s,t})_{0 \leq s < t < \infty}$ defined for all $s < t$ by :

$$\begin{aligned} M_{s,t} = & \int_0^s f_-(u)dB_u + \int_t^\infty f_+(u)dB_u + \dots \\ & \dots + \frac{B_t - B_s}{t - s} \left(C - \int_0^s f_-(u)du - \int_t^\infty f_+(u)du \right) \end{aligned}$$

is a past-future Brownian martingale.

One notices that the stochastic integral terms associated to the functions f_\pm have to be "compensated" with a harness term.

2. An exponential example can easily be derived from this latter. Within the same framework, the two-parameter process $(N_{s,t})_{0 \leq s < t < \infty}$ defined for all $s < t$

$$\begin{aligned} \ln N_{s,t} = & M_{s,t} + \frac{1}{2} \int_0^s f_-^2(u)du + \frac{1}{2} \int_t^\infty f_+^2(u)du + \dots \\ & \dots + \frac{t - s}{2} \left(C - \int_0^s f_-(u)du - \int_t^\infty f_+(u)du \right)^2 \end{aligned}$$

is a past-future martingale.

(4.3) Previous examples can easily be extended to more general Lévy processes :

Proposition 9 :

Let ξ be a Lévy process and f an integrable function with locally finite variation, chosen to be right-continuous with left limits, such that $\int_0^\infty f(u^-)d\xi_u$ exists. Then, for all $s < t$,

$$M_{s,t} = \int_0^s f(u^-)d\xi_u + \int_t^\infty f(u^-)d\xi_u + \frac{\xi_t - \xi_s}{t - s} \int_s^t f(u)du + [\xi_\cdot, f(\cdot)]_s - [\xi_\cdot, f(\cdot)]_t$$

defines a past-future martingale.

Proof :

Indeed thanks to integration by parts formula

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E} \left[\int_s^t f(u^-)d\xi_u | \xi_t, \xi_s \right] &= f(t^-)\xi_t - f(s)\xi_s - \int_s^t \mathbb{E} [\xi_{u-} | \xi_t, \xi_s] df(u) + [\xi_\cdot, f(\cdot)]_s - [\xi_\cdot, f(\cdot)]_t \\ &= \xi_t \left(f(t^-) - \int_s^t \frac{u - s}{t - s} df(u) \right) + \xi_s \left(-f(s) - \int_s^t \frac{t - u}{t - s} df(u) \right) \\ &\quad \dots + [\xi_\cdot, f(\cdot)]_s - [\xi_\cdot, f(\cdot)]_t \\ &= \frac{(\xi_t - \xi_s)}{t - s} \int_s^t f(u)du + [\xi_\cdot, f(\cdot)]_s - [\xi_\cdot, f(\cdot)]_t \end{aligned}$$

Therefore

$$M_{s,t} = \mathbb{E} \left[\int_0^\infty f(u^-) d\xi_u | \mathcal{H}_{s,t} \right]$$

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